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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): ~~A lithographic printing method~~method of forming a lithographic plate, comprising

forming a uniform layer of a hydrophobic substance on the entire surface of a printing plate precursor, said printing plate precursor having a titanium dioxide-containing surface layer, and

~~by~~ irradiating the surface of the precursor with active light to form imagewise hydrophilic areas to make a printing plate,

wherein said active light is far-ultraviolet light having a wavelength of 250 to 320 nm.

2. (currently amended): ~~A lithographic printing method~~The method according to claim 1, wherein said far-ultraviolet light is emitted from a solid state laser having an oscillation wavelength of 256 nm or a low-pressure mercury lamp having a vapor pressure of 0.1 kPa or lower.

3. (currently amended): ~~A lithographic printing method~~The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said layer of the hydrophobic substance is formed to such a thickness as to have a contact angle with a water drop of 70 to 120°.

4. (currently amended): ~~A lithographic printing~~The method according to ~~any one of~~
~~claims 1 to 3~~claim 1 or 2, wherein said printing plate precursor comprises a grained aluminum
support having provided thereon said titanium oxide-containing surface layer.

5. (currently amended): ~~A lithographic printing~~The method according to ~~any one of~~
~~claims 1 to 3~~claim 1 or 2, wherein said hydrophobic substance is a subliming solid or a volatile
liquid, and said layer of the hydrophobic substance is formed by condensing vapor of said
hydrophobic substance on said titanium oxide-containing surface layer.

6. (currently amended): ~~A lithographic printing~~The method according to ~~any one of~~
~~claims 1 to 3~~claim 1 or 2, wherein said hydrophobic substance is an organic polymer, and said
layer of the hydrophobic substance is formed by spraying a solution or dispersion of said organic
polymer onto said titanium oxide-containing surface layer.

7. (currently amended): ~~A lithographic printing~~The method according to ~~any one of~~
~~claims 1 to 3~~claim 1 or 2, wherein said layer of the hydrophobic substance is formed on said
titanium oxide-containing layer by spread coating, spray coating, vapor condensation, gas
contact or dip coating.

8. (currently amended): ~~A lithographic printing~~The method according to any one of
~~claims 1 to 3~~claim 16 or 17, which further comprises removing residual ink from the printing
plate after completion of printing to regenerate said printing plate as a printing plate precursor.

9. (withdrawn): A lithographic printing apparatus comprising (1) a part in which a
printing plate precursor having a titanium oxide-containing surface layer is fixed, (2) a part in
which a layer of a hydrophobic substance is formed on the entire surface of said printing plate
precursor, (3) a part in which said printing plate precursor with the hydrophobic layer is
imagewise irradiated with far-ultraviolet light having a wavelength of 250 to 320 nm to produce
a printing plate having an imagewise hydrophilic areas/hydrophobic areas distribution, (4) a part
in which ink is fed to said hydrophobic areas, and a fountain solution is fed to said hydrophilic
areas, and (5) a part in which said printing plate having received ink on the hydrophobic areas
thereof and the fountain solution on the hydrophilic areas thereof is brought into contact with a
printing substrate to carry out printing.

10. (withdrawn): A lithographic printing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said
parts (1) to (5) are arranged around a plate cylinder.

11. (withdrawn): A lithographic printing apparatus according to claim 9 or 10, which
further has (6) a part in which the printing plate after use is cleaned with an ink solvent to make
it reusable as a printing plate precursor.

12. (new): The method according to claim 3, wherein said printing plate precursor comprises a grained aluminum support having provided thereon said titanium oxide-containing surface layer.

13. (new): The method according to claim 3, wherein said hydrophobic substance is a subliming solid or a volatile liquid, and said layer of the hydrophobic substance is formed by condensing vapor of said hydrophobic substance on said titanium oxide-containing surface layer.

14. (new): The method according to claim 3, wherein said hydrophobic substance is an organic polymer, and said layer of the hydrophobic substance is formed by spraying a solution or dispersion of said organic polymer onto said titanium oxide-containing surface layer.

15. (new): The method according to claim 3, wherein said layer of the hydrophobic substance is formed on said titanium oxide-containing layer by spread coating, spray coating, vapor condensation, gas contact or dip coating.

16. (new): A lithographic printing method, comprising:
forming a uniform layer of a hydrophobic substance on the entire surface of a printing plate precursor, said printing plate precursor having a titanium dioxide-containing surface layer;

irradiating the surface of the precursor with active light to form imagewise hydrophilic areas to make a printing plate, wherein said active light is far-ultraviolet light having a wavelength of 250 to 320 nm;

applying ink solvent to the printing plate; and

transferring ink from the printing plate onto a medium to be printed.

17. (new): The method according to claim 16, wherein said far-ultraviolet light is emitted from a solid state laser having an oscillation wavelength of 256 nm or a low-pressure mercury lamp having a vapor pressure of 0.1 kPa or lower.

18. (new): The method according to claim 16 or 17, wherein said layer of the hydrophobic substance is formed to such a thickness as to have a contact angle with a water drop of 70 to 120°.

19. (new): The method according to claim 18, further comprising removing residual ink from the printing plate after completion of printing to regenerate said printing plate as a printing plate precursor.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/084,886

Q68579

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please replace Figure 6 with the attached Figure 6.

Attachment: One (1) Annotated Marked-Up Drawing Sheet (Fig. 6)
One (1) Replacement Drawing Sheet (Fig. 6)